

AMENDMENTS

A. IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

--43. An isolated polynucleotide comprising:

- (1)
- a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the growth differentiation factor-16 (GDF-16) polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - b) a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein T can also be U;
 - c) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - d) a nucleotide sequence that is 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, encoding a protein having GDF-16 biological activity; or
 - e) a fragment of a), b), c), or d) wherein the fragment is at least 50 nucleotides in length and at least 99% percent identical to SEQ ID NO:1 or a complement thereof.

44. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 43, wherein the isolated polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the growth differentiation factor-16 (GDF-16) polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

45. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 43, wherein the isolated polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein T can also be U.

46. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 43, wherein the isolated polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

47. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 43, wherein the isolated polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence that is 99% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and which encodes a protein having GDF-16 activity.

48. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 43, wherein the isolated polynucleotide is a fragment that is at least 50 nucleotides in length and 100% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

49. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 43, wherein the isolated polynucleotide is a fragment that is at least 100 nucleotides in length and 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

50. The isolated isolated polynucleotide of claim 43, wherein the isolated polynucleotide is a fragment that is at least 100 nucleotides in length and 100% identical to SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

51. An expression vector including the polynucleotide of claim 43.

52. A host cell stably transformed with the vector of claim 51.

53. An isolated polynucleotide comprising:

- a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the growth differentiation factor-16 (GDF-16) polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
- b) a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1, wherein T can also be U; or
- c) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

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54. An expression vector including the polynucleotide of claim 52.

55. A host cell stably transformed with the vector of claim 53.--